

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 and 38-43 are currently pending. Claim 37 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-17, 21, 23, 28-30, 33, 34, 36, 41 and 42 have been amended by the present amendment. Support for amended Claims 2-17, 21, 23, 28-30, 33, 34, 36, 41 and 42 can be found in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added.

In response to the Election of Species Requirement dated January 9, 2007, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the species drawn to Fig. 1, and list Claims 1-17, 21, 23, 28-30, 32-34, 36, and 39-42 as readable thereon.

Applicants traverse the outstanding requirement since the Office has not established that a serious burden would result if all the claims were examined together. No separate search classifications have been asserted. Moreover, Applicants note that electronic searching is commonly performed so that multiple subclasses can be searched simultaneously. More particularly, MPEP §803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

In the present application, the Office Action provides no evidence that a serious burden would be required to examine all of the claims together.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the requirement to elect a single disclosed species be reconsidered and withdrawn,¹ and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-36 and 38-43 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Kurt M. Berger
Registration No. 51,461

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¹ See MPEP 821.01.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the requirement to elect a single disclosed species be reconsidered and withdrawn,¹ and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-36 and 38-43 be conducted.

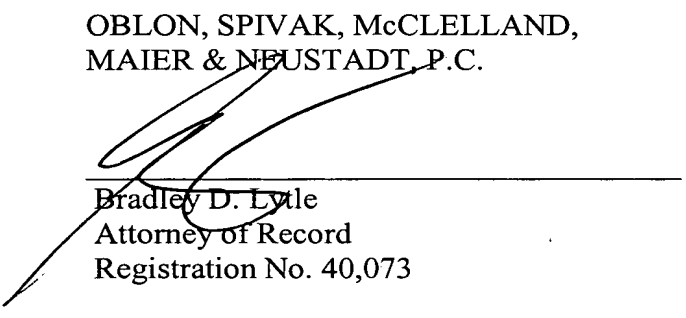
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)



Bradley D. Lyle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Andrew T. Harry
Registration No. 56,959

I:\ATTY\DPB\0043 D YOUNG\282541US\282541US-AM.DOC

¹ See MPEP 821.01.